



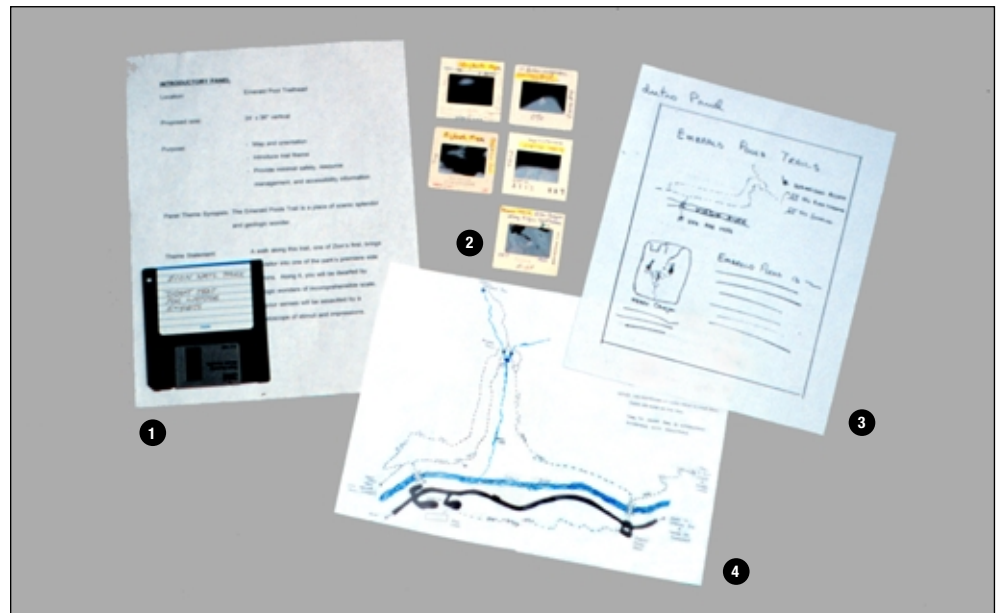
Technical Assistance Case Study: Zion National Park Trailhead Exhibit

The Emerald Pools Trail Exhibit

In FY1997, Zion National Park used the Technical Assistance Program to develop three different wayside exhibits for their Emerald Pools Trail. The Emerald Pools Trail is one of the park's most popular trails, offering a variety of hiking options ranging from wheelchair accessible to strenuous, with breathtaking panoramic views of Zion Canyon. One of the three exhibits submitted for technical assistance was the Emerald Pools Trail panel, which orients visitors to the trail and provides important safety information.

The Park Submits the Request

With guidance from the Division of Wayside Exhibits' Technical Assistance Coordinator, the park submitted a memorandum requesting assistance, along with resource packages for each exhibit.



The Resource Package

The resource package prepared by Zion for the Emerald Pools Trail panel included all the items needed to develop a successful wayside exhibit.

- ❶ Draft text was furnished both in hard copy and on disk. Text on disk is essential for editing and for efficient wayside design development.
- ❷ Photographic images, primarily of dramatic scenery along the trail, were furnished for consideration. Each was clearly labeled. Photographs of the exhibit location and views from the location were included for general planning and design reference.
- ❸ A sketchy layout was submitted to illustrate the interpretive intent of the panel. The layout contained introductory text, a trail map, safety and resource protection rules, and a photograph of scenery along the trail.
- ❹ A detailed, yet "rough," map compilation was included for creation of a trail map. The map compilation showed all proposed content including a scale reference. Though not included in this particular instance by Zion, an accurate existing map from a park trail guide or other source can often speed map development.

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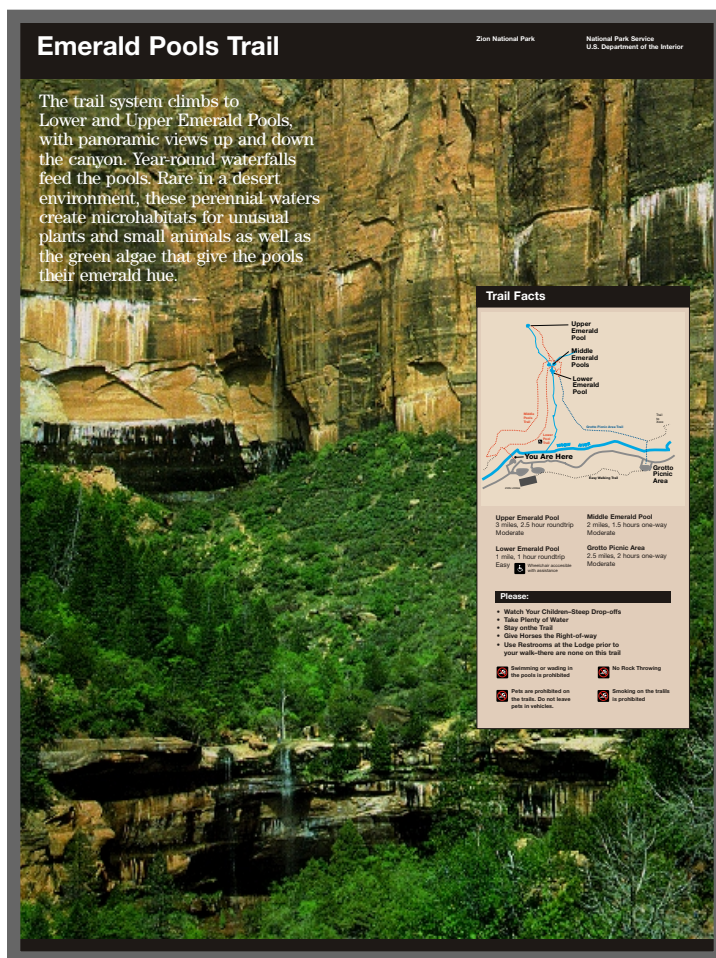


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Zion National Park: The Emerald Pools Trail Exhibit, continued . . .

Wayside Development

A planner and a designer from the Division of Wayside Exhibits discussed the materials in the resource package. Text was edited and sharpened. The idea of a dramatic full-panel background photo was selected to draw visitor attention and to preview one of the trails spectacular views. A trail map was developed to clearly diagram trail routes. Concise trail information, safety messages, and resource protection advisories were organized to graphically complement the map.



Conclusion

The park reviewed and enthusiastically approved the layout. Through this cooperative team effort between Zion National Park and the Division of Wayside Exhibits, quality exhibits were developed and produced. The exhibits achieve the park's interpretive goals and are consistent with NPS design standards.

Digital imaging was chosen as the method of panel production. This low-cost alternative is ideal for trailheads and other applications where information is subject to change in the near future. The Division of Wayside Exhibits retains the computer design files which will expedite low-cost exhibit rehab, replacement, or content revision in the future.